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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/759,443	01/15/2004	Ping H. Kui	17646-113001 / 20000246	7836

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EXAMINER	
PITARO, RYAN F	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2174	

DATE MAILED: 05/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/759,443	KUI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ryan F. Pitaro	2174	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *21 February 2006*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-36* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-36* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/11/2004
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-36 have been examined.

Response to Amendment

2. This action is in response to Amendment A filed 2/21/2006. In the amendment claims 12-34 were amended and claims 35-36 were added as new. This action is Final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1,2,4,5,9-13,15-16,20-24,26-27,31-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boulter ("Boulter", US 6,771,288) in view of Ishii ("Ishii", US2003/0065814).

As per independent claim 1, Boulter teaches a method for administering bridge ports for a network, comprising: retrieving information associated with a plurality of switches, the information including at least identifiers of bridging ports of the switches

and statuses of the bridging ports (Figure 3 and Figure 4, column 5 lines 14-19); receiving through the interactive display updates to at least one propagation status of at least one of the bridging ports of at least one of the switches (Column 8 lines 53-58, Column 7 lines 20-35); and changing the at least one propagation status based on the updates (Figure 3 and Figure 4, column 5 lines 14-19). However, Boulter does not expressly teach displaying the plurality of switches through its interactive display. Ishii teaches displaying the information for the plurality of switches ([0057] lines 1-6). Therefore it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include the switch information of Ishii with the interactive display of Boulter. Motivation to do so would have been to provide improved communication quality allowing the user a more detailed information about the ports and switches.

As per claim 2, which is dependent on claim 1, Boulter-Ishii teaches a method wherein displaying the information through an interactive display comprises displaying all the retrieved identifiers of the bridging ports on a single window (Boulter, Figure 3).

As per claim 4, which is dependent on claim 1, Boulter-Ishii teaches a method, wherein the information associated with the switches further comprising a switch type (Ishii, [0052] lines [55]).

As per claim 5, which is dependent on claim 1, Boulter-Ishii teaches a method wherein displaying the information comprises color-coding status of the bridging ports (Boulter Column 8 lines 10-16).

As per claim 9, which is dependent on claim 1, Boulter-Ishii teaches a method wherein the interactive display operable to allow a user to change the propagation

status of a plurality of all ports of a single switch, a plurality of ports of a single switch, and a plurality of ports of multiple switches (Boulter, Figure 4).

As per claim 10, which is dependent on claim 9, Boulter-Ishii teaches a method wherein the interactive display operable to allow a user to change the propagation comprises the interactive display operable to allow a user to change the propagation status from a single window (Boulter, Figure 4).

As per claim 11, which is dependent on claim 1, Boulter-Ishii teaches a method wherein the interactive display operable to allow a user to change the propagation status of all ports of a single switch, a plurality of ports of a single switch, and all of ports of multiple switches (Boulter, Figure 4).

Claims 12,23,34 are individually similar in scope to that of claim 1, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale. With the exception of Boulter further teaching the software being operable to display propagation statuses of the bridge ports and wherein propagation status includes an indication of whether or not a bridge port should be polled to obtain its current status (Column 7 lines 20-67 and Column 8 lines 35-58) and Ishii further teaching each switch of the plurality of switches including one or more bridge ports including the bridge ports of each switch (Figure 18).

Claims 13,24 are individually similar in scope to that of claim 2, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 15,26 are individually similar in scope to that of claim 4, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 16,27 are individually similar in scope to that of claim 5, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 20,31 are individually similar in scope to that of claim 9, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 21,32 are individually similar in scope to that of claim 10, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 22,33 are individually similar in scope to that of claim 11, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 35, Boulter-Ishii teaches a method wherein propagation status includes an indication of whether or not a bridging port should be polled for its current status (Boulter, Column 7 lines 20-67 and Column 8 lines 35-58).

As per claim 36, Boulter-Ishii teaches software, wherein the information associated with the plurality of switches further includes at least the hierarchical relationships of the plurality of switches (Boulter, Figure 4), wherein display of the information for the plurality of switches further includes display of a hierarchical representation of the plurality of switches derived from the hierarchical relationships (Boulter, Figure 4) and wherein a representation of a switch on the hierarchical representation includes an indication of the propagation status of all bridge ports associated with the switch, wherein the indication includes a first indication when all associated bridge ports are propagating, a second indication when no associated bridge ports are propagating, and a third indication when some of the associated bridge ports are propagating (Boulter, Column 12 lines 30-65).

3. Claim 3,6,7,8,14,17,18,19,25,28,29,30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boulter ("Boulter", US 6,771,288) and of Ishii ("Ishii", US2003/0065814) in view of Kekic et al ("Kekic", US 5,999,179).

As per claim 3, which is dependent on claim 2, Boulter-Ishii teaches bridging ports, but fails to teach a hierarchical tree structure. However, Kekic teaches all identifiers in a hierarchical tree structure (Figure 3B). Therefore it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to combine the hierarchical tree of Kekic with the interactive display of Boulter-Ishii. Motivation to do so would have been to show an organized way of displaying related elements.

As per claim 6, which is dependent on claim 1, Boulter-Ishii-Kekic teaches a method wherein the interactive display comprising a first and a second window, the first window comprising a hierarchical tree structure of all managed switches (Kekic, Figure 3B, item 305), the second window comprising a tabular display of port information of a managed switch selected in the hierarchical tree structure (Kekic, status window).

As per claim 7, which is dependent on claim 6, Boulter-Ishii-Kekic teaches a method wherein the second window provides a field in which a user of the interactive display can view the propagation status of a plurality of ports of the managed switch selected in the hierarchical tree structure (Boulter, Figure 4).

As per claim 8, which is dependent on claim 7, Boulter-Ishii-Kekic teaches a method wherein the propagation status of any or all ports of the managed switch selected in the hierarchical tree structure (Boulter, Figure 4).

Claims 14,25 are individually similar in scope to that of claim 3, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 17,28 are individually similar in scope to that of claim 6, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 18,29 are individually similar in scope to that of claim 7, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 19,30 are individually similar in scope to that of claim 8, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Response to Arguments

Applicants argue that Boulter does not teach an interactive display monitoring port propagation status. The Examiner respectfully disagrees and points to Column 7 lines 20-35 for clarification purposes.

Applicants argue that Boulter fails to teach propagation status that is an indication of whether or not a bridge port should be polled to obtain its current status. However, the Examiner points out that the port state as taught in Boulter indicates the

state of the port and if the port is disable, it must be the case that the port does not need polled any longer since it is disabled and we no longer need a status of the port.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ryan F. Pitaro whose telephone number is 571-272-4071. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00am - 4:30pm Mondays through Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on 571-272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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